



# *City of Champions*

## *Linda M. Balzotti- Mayor*

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### ***MAYOR'S TASK FORCES TO REPORT FINDINGS WITHIN 60 DAYS***

*Mayor establishes task forces to address key issues in the City of Brockton*

BROCKTON - Mayor Linda M. Balzotti, who last month formed five task forces to study and address issues of Public Safety, Street Violence, Education, Economic Growth, and Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, has charged the citizen-led task forces with providing her a detailed report of their findings within 60 days.

Balzotti, who was sworn in as the city's first female mayor on January 4<sup>th</sup>, said she is moving forward with plans quickly so that her administration can address issues in the short-term and plan for long-range solutions.

"In forming these task forces, I was looking for fresh perspectives and new ideas on how to address Brockton's key issues," Balzotti said. "The fiscal 2011 budget will be grim, and I am hopeful that the task forces will present solutions-based initiatives that we can adopt within the context of the fiscal crisis. The more information we have before we begin budgeting, the better."

Each task force is collecting data and information on its central issue and identifying five major concerns related to its mission. The task forces will also provide three recommendations as to how the city can best address each concern. Each task force will report a draft their findings to Mayor Balzotti within 60 days.

To assure community involvement in the process, the draft reports will be available to residents via the city website, [www.ci.brockton.ma.us](http://www.ci.brockton.ma.us). Community members are encouraged to write the Mayor's Office with their input. Residents will also be invited to voice their concerns at a public forum to be held in the spring which will be attended by all task force chairpersons.

The Public Safety task force will evaluate the abilities of law enforcement and other agencies to work in a cooperative manner that ensures the protection and safety of the citizens of Brockton. Brockton Attorney Joshua Woods serves as Chairperson, and members include Robert S. Creedon, Clerk of Courts, Attorney Sean Noonan, Heather

Arrighi of the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, John Nesti of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce and Fredson Gomes of Self Help, Inc.

The Street Violence Task Force is working to decrease the amount of physical force used by individuals in the city. The Mayor's Director of Community and Social Services, Koren Cappiello, will serve as Chairperson of the Street Violence Task Force. Also on the task force will be Heather Shruhan of the Old Colony YMCA, Sharon Conant of the Brockton Boy's and Girl's Club, Lenny Monteiro of the Cape Verdean Association, Joel West a representative from juvenile probation and John Williams, a community activist.

"The Street Violence Task Force is an incredible opportunity to link violence prevention and intervention resources together," said Shruhan of the YMCA. "This task force is an essential step in the direction of actively working to achieve peace in our city."

The Education and Training task force will be chaired by Nathania Onyeagoro, a senior resident services and programming coordinator for Beacon Management. The task force seeks to ensure that all citizens of Brockton are given access to continuing educational opportunities. This group will investigate increasing opportunities for adult education, education for English language learners, and alternative forms of education such as trade schools and GED courses. Members of the task force are Frederick Clark, member of the State College Council of Presidents, former Brockton High School Principal Robert Jarvis, former School Committee member Scott McDuffy and Sheila Jardim Sullivan, a representative of the Work Force Investment Board.

The Economic Growth task force will focus on efforts to increase the level of employment and the production of goods and services in Brockton. The task force Chairperson is local businessman John Lloyd. Members of the task force are Christopher Cooney, President of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Charles Hickey of the UMASS Donahue Institute, Brockton resident Patrick Quinn, and Sean Almonte, an urban planner.

The task force on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization will work to address quality of life issues in Brockton's neighborhoods and to identify housing opportunities for the city. The task force chairperson is Richard Sergi, Executive Director of the Brockton Housing Authority. Other members are Robert Jenkins of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Corporation, Gwen Nauls, John Nesti of the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Tom Washington of Mainspring and Kevin Brower of Harbor One Credit Union.

For questions and/or further information concerning this release, please contact the Mayor's Office at (508)-580-7123. You can also obtain additional information by visiting the City of Brockton's Web site at: [www.brockton.ma.us](http://www.brockton.ma.us)

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